

State Council on Workforce Services
University Park Marriott Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah
October 12, 2006

State Council Members: Kevin Crandall, Don Uchida, Susan McAllister, John Slade (for Robert Knudson), Paul Nielson, Jan Thompson (for James English), Deb Dull, Gary Wixom (for Richard Kendell), Representative David Hogue, Stephen Goodrich, Richard Thorn, Gary Knapp, Dawn Skorka, Marie Christman, Paul Jackson, David Turner and Mary Shumway (for Patti Harrington)

Other Attendees: Mike Richardson, Christopher Love, Greg Gardner, Steve Maas, Connie Laws, Stephanie Smith, Helen Thatcher, Norm Fitzgerald, Marty Kelly, Shauna South, Judy Chambley, Steve Jensen, Bob Gilbert, Wayne Griffin, Julie Lay, Mike Medley, Melissa Finch, Thom Smith, Jolyn Bevan, Jane Broadhead, Diane Lovell, Jon Pierpont, Rod Barlow, Karen Silver, William Cox, Parley Jacobs, Greg Diven, Ann Barnson, Lorri Economy, Stan Eckersley, Jami Golding, Tom Darais, John Bell, Randy Hopkins, Susan Wright, Bill Starks, Steven Burge, Mary Gehman-Smith

Welcome - Kevin Crandall

Kevin welcomed the group and stated he feels this has been the best Council of Councils conference to date. In accordance with the law, today's meeting is being recorded. The recording and the minutes will be posted at jobs.utah.gov. Kevin called for approval of the Consent Agenda. Gary Knapp motioned to approve the 20 July 2006 meeting minutes as written along with three training providers; 1) Mortgage Education Connection, Midvale, Utah; 2) Provo Dental Assisting, Provo, Utah; and 3) Utah Safety Council, Salt Lake City, Utah, Paul Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Economic Information Update - Steve Maas

Steve Maas reported on the Economic Report dated 12 October 2006. According to this report, Utah continues to add jobs in all sectors including manufacturing. The current unemployment rate is 2% meaning we are fully employed. This makes it hard for employers as there are more jobs than applicants. Increasing skill sets of all workers continues to be a priority for Utah business.

15% Set Aside Waiver - Connie Laws

Connie introduced a waiver proposal for this group to present to their Regional Councils. The waiver would allow us to set aside up to 50% of our

adult and dislocated worker training funds for incumbent worker training. The training would be for targeted sectors with a career path and offer workers in entry-level jobs the opportunity to advance. Incumbent Worker will be part of our strategic plan. Connie feels this is a wise investment for our training dollars. Employers may need to match the other 50%. Goals of the incumbent worker program will help spur job growth and increase productivity. Connie continued we would like feedback at the January State Council meeting so we have a viable system to send to the Department of Labor. Paul Neilson reported the Uintah Basin has been successful in retraining their students. He feels this waiver supports their cause. Deb Dull asked about the actual dollar amounts. Connie reported, for this year, the dollar amount would be \$1,877,000 for adults and \$1,736,000 for dislocated workers. Connie requested the regions invite the Incumbent Worker Program team to Regional Council meetings to help discuss strategies around this program.

Executive Director's Report - Christopher Love

Christopher Love, DWS Deputy Director, will provide the Executive Director's Report as Tani Pack Downing could not attend today's meeting. Chris stated the DWS Annual Report is now available. The focus of this year's report is access to DWS services in our one-stops is better and more efficient than ever. Other highlights include online services, technology, and innovative solutions for diverse customer needs. This report is distributed to the State Council on Workforce Services and Legislators, as well as other interested parties.

Chris continued that the proposed legislation for the 2007 general session includes:

- Employment Security Act Amendments. 1) This would keep the Utah Statute current with the federal Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention Act of 2005; 2) Allow DWS to set standards for determining which tax reports must be filed on electronic media and; 3) Would require an authorized employer representative who files quarterly unemployment tax reports on behalf of 100 or more employers during any calendar quarter to report electronically.
- Unemployment Compensation Social Security Offset. This will remove the provision that allows 50% Social Security Offset to be funded by the Reed Act. DWS was notified in May 2006 by the U.S.

Department of Labor that Utah's non-charging provision does not conform to federal law; all benefit costs must be charged back to the employer causing the unemployment, not to the federal Reed Act Funds. It is important to the Employment Advisory Council that rates not be impacted significantly.

- Family Employment Program (FEP) Amendments. We are proposing transitional cash assistance be exempt from Utah's 36-month time limit in order to retain employed customers in the participation pool, which helps Utah meet federal participation requirements, and to reduce the recidivism rate among FEP customers. This should be implemented in early 2007.

Chris continued Utah was notified two weeks ago our Unemployment Insurance Division will be presented the Pinnacle Award. This award recognizes the best performance in the nation. Chris recognized Bill Starks, unemployment insurance director.

Chris stated we are now required to record all public meetings. Training will be provided at the April State Council meeting.

State Youth Council - Marie Christman

Marie Christman reported the youth portion of the WIA annual report contains the seven statutory performance outcomes. DWS received a waiver of the statutory measures from DOL, which replaces the seven measures with three common measures: 1) placement in employment or education; 2) attainment of a degree or certificate and; 3) literacy or numeracy gains. The Regional Youth Councils are aware of this change and are creating strategies to meet the new outcomes. For PY2005, the expenditure target for out-of-school youth was 50%. Statewide the achievement level was 60%. The target for PY2006 is 70%. In January 2007, the SYC will meet for a day to finish setting goals for 2006 and work on goals for 2007.

Operations and Performance Committee - Connie Laws

Connie reported the Operations and Performance Committee discussed Incumbent Worker Training. They have met the Department of Labor's request for an annual report. They met or exceeded goals for adult and dislocated workers.

Public Comment

Karen Silver, Central Regional Council, would like to follow up on a question she asked at the last State Council meeting. She encouraged the Council to research what incentives are available for customers participating in the FEP. She wants to ensure they are given opportunities for increasing their literacy skills so they can compete in the workplace. She asked the Council to write a letter, etc., to encourage this effort. Kevin called for activity on this front. Mike Richardson stated this will be followed up on and included on the next State Council agenda.

Kevin concluded the meeting with the following:

- 2007 State Council meeting dates are being worked on. The next meeting will be in January;
- The Regional Councils are the intermediaries. We are connected to the communities by role and organizations that represent the supply as well as the demand. We come away from these meetings knowing what to do next. He is looking forward to the coming year.
- He reminded the group to complete the Evaluation forms. This will allow us to judge today's event and help us to do it better.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.